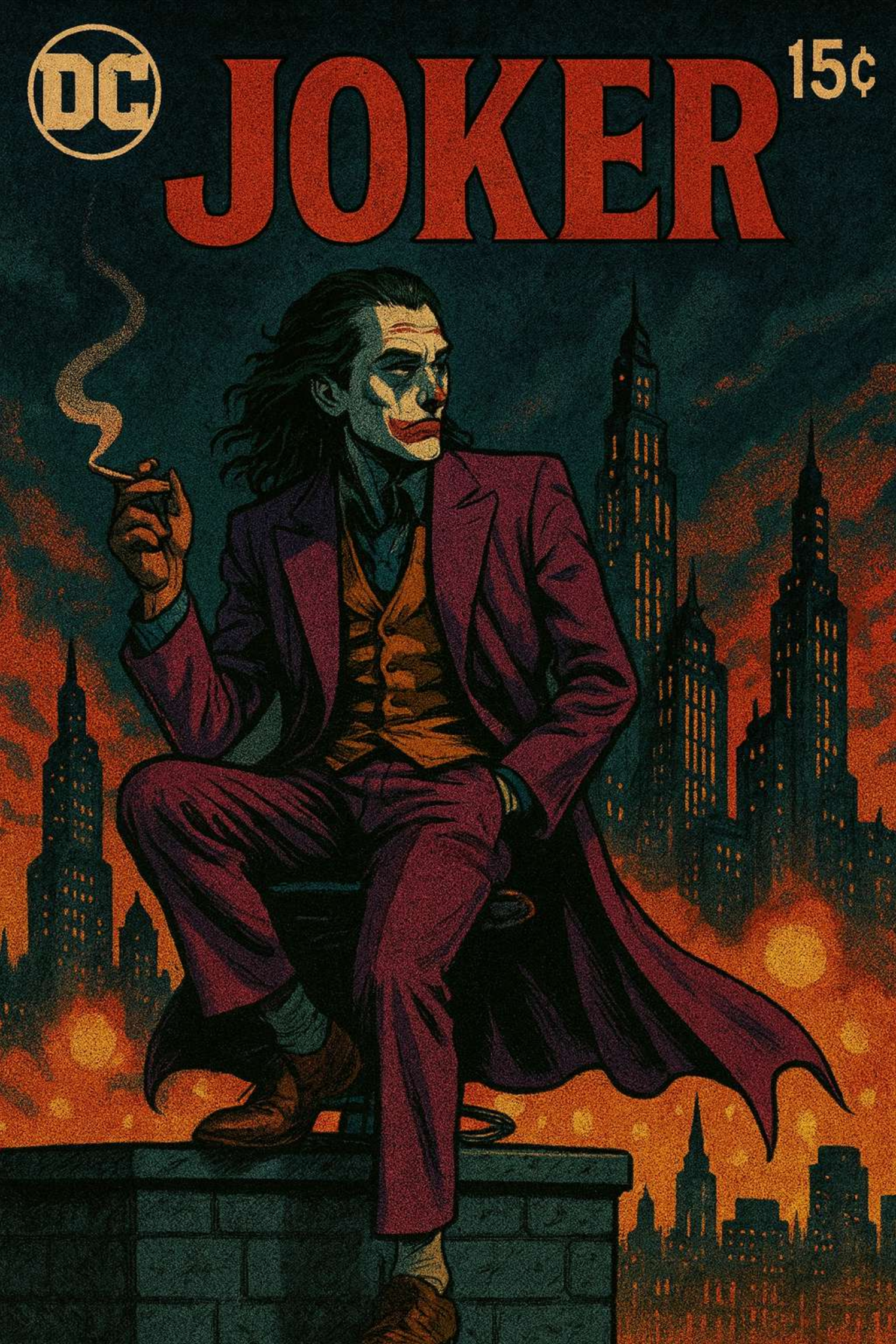
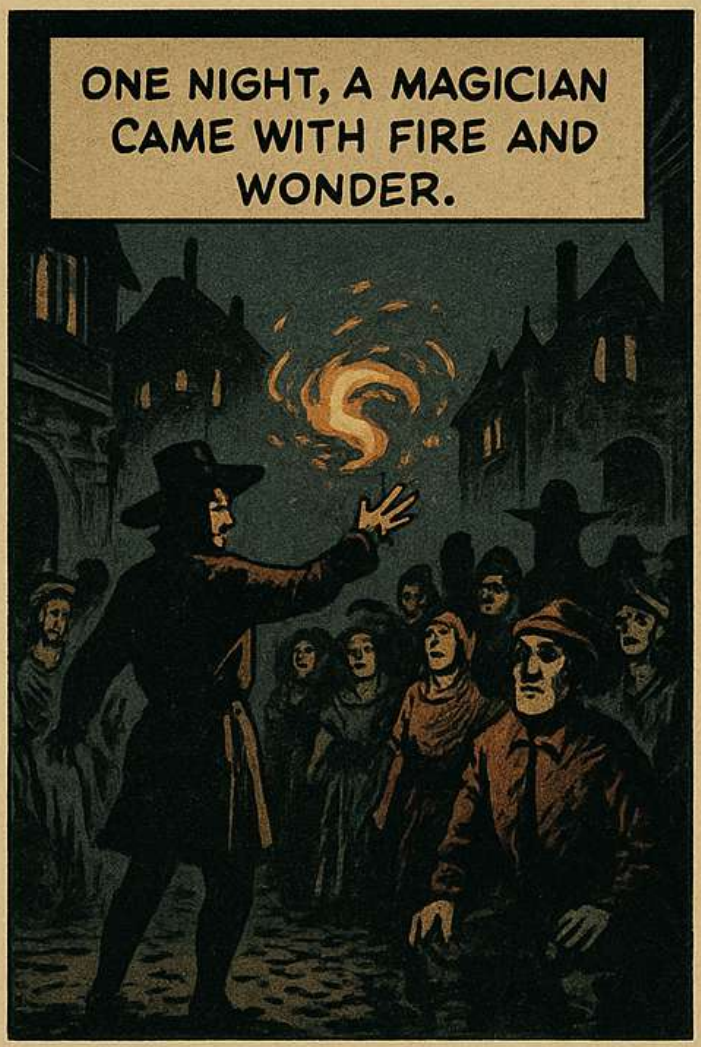

DC
JOKER
15¢

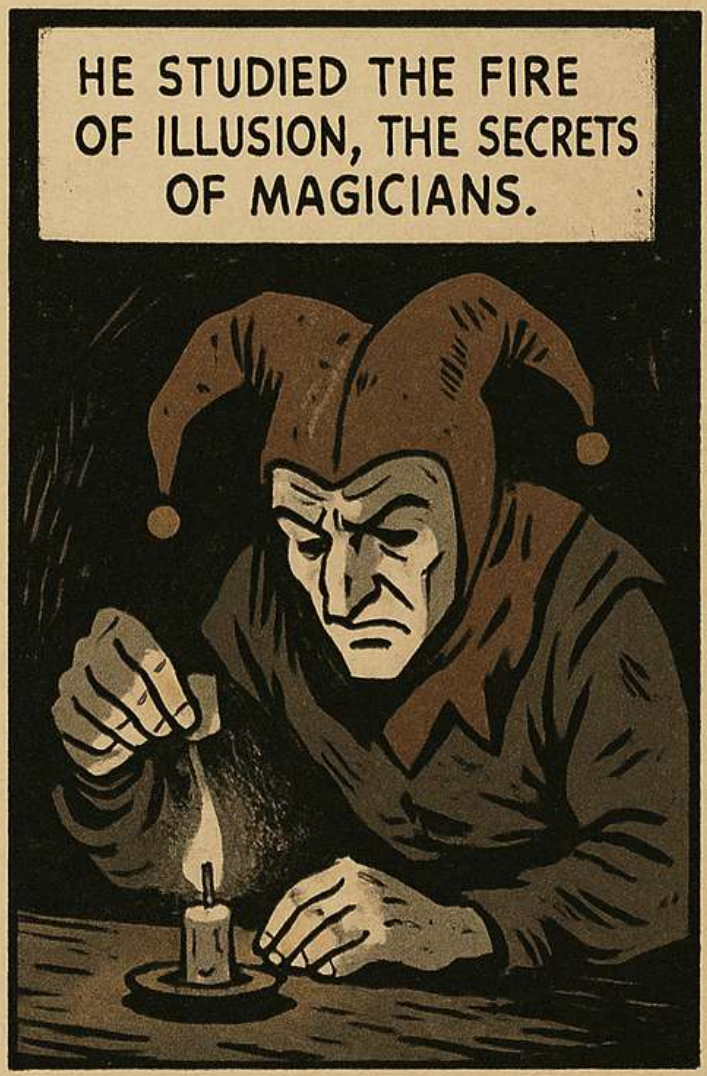
There was once a jester who made the townspeople laugh.
HA
HA
His painted face turned sorrow into games.
They tossed him coins, and he bowed low.
But the jester hungered for more than laughter.


ONE NIGHT, A MAGICIAN CAME WITH FIRE AND WONDER.

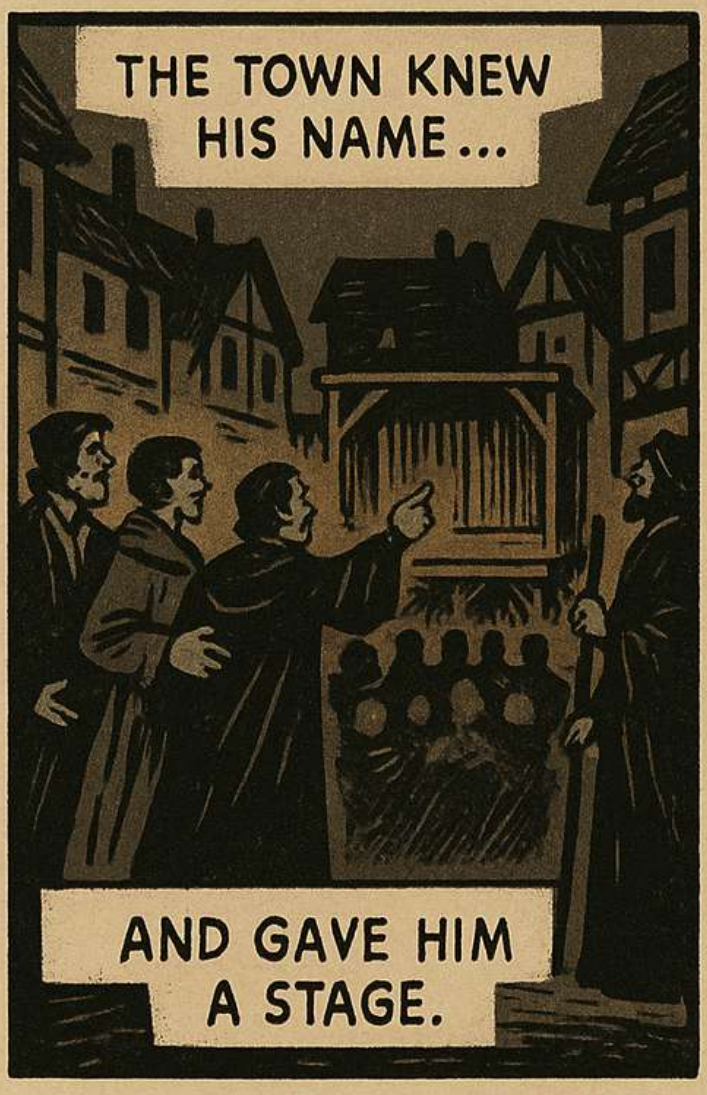
THE JESTER WATCHED... AND HUNGERED.

HERE WAS TRUE POWER—TO STIR THE HEARTS OF MEN.

"IF THEY CAN BE FOOLED... THEY CAN BE RULED."


HE STUDIED THE FIRE OF ILLUSION, THE SECRETS OF MAGICIANS.

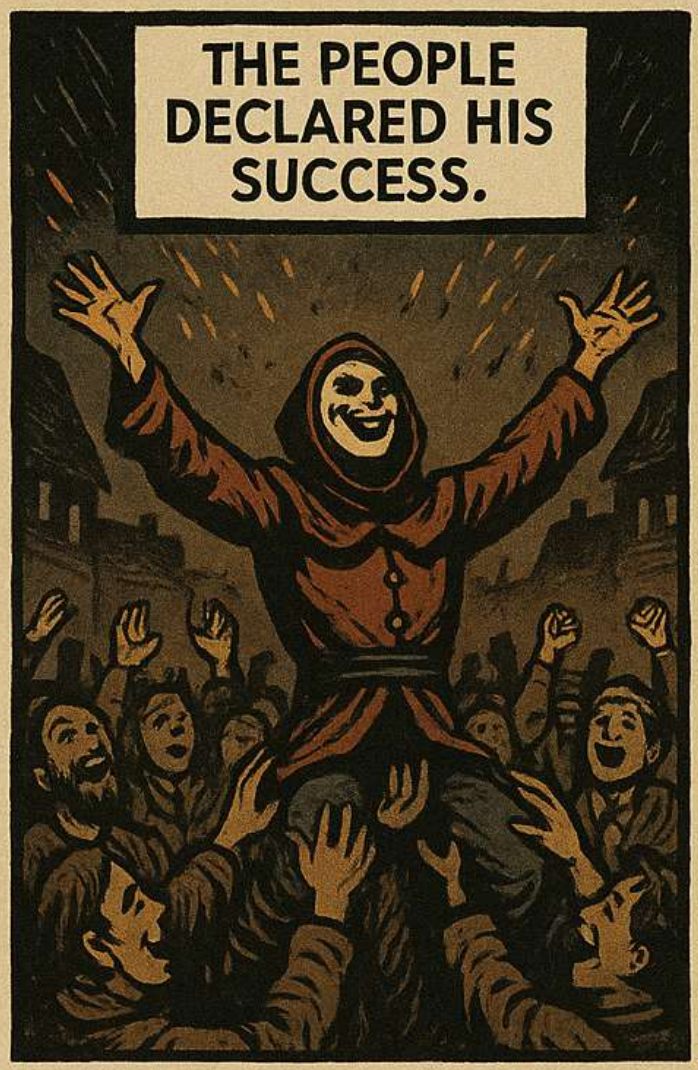
AND AT LAST, HE BECAME A MAGICIAN.

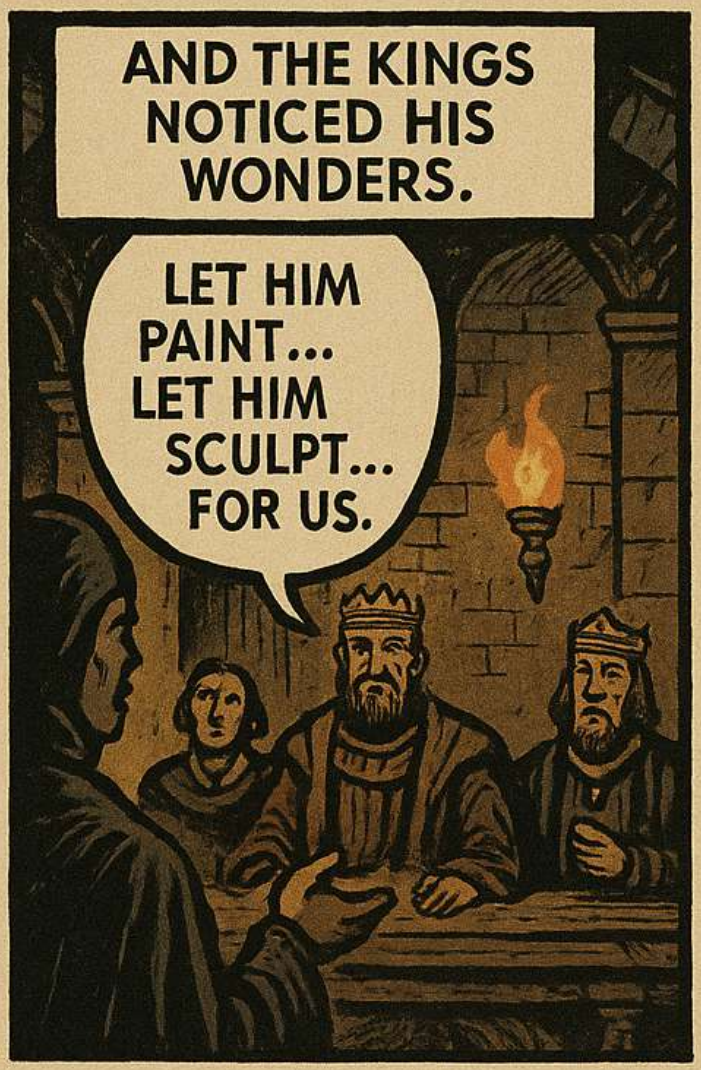

THE TOWN KNEW HIS NAME...
AND GAVE HIM A STAGE.

AND SO HE PREPARED FOR HIRS FIRST SHOW.

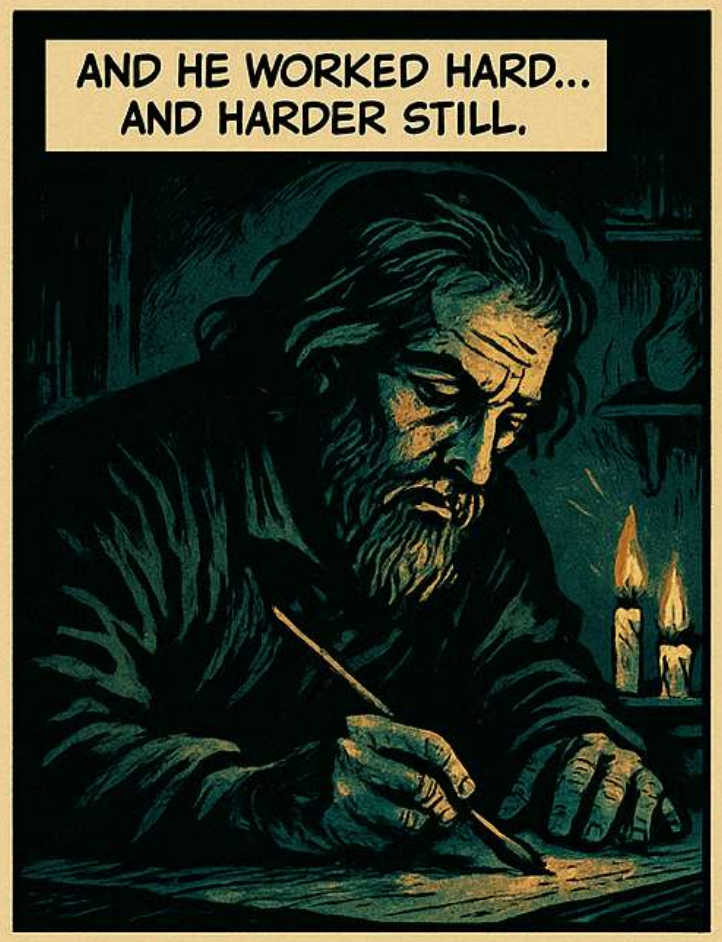
AT HIS FIRST SHOW. HE DAZZLED THE CROWD.

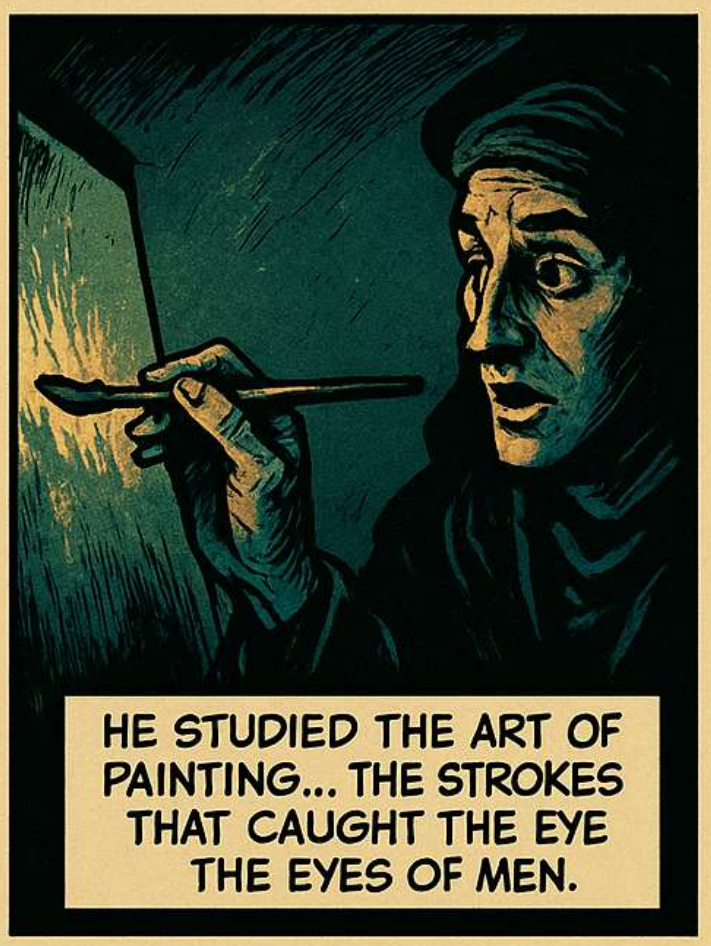
THE OUTPERFOMED ALL OTHERS.

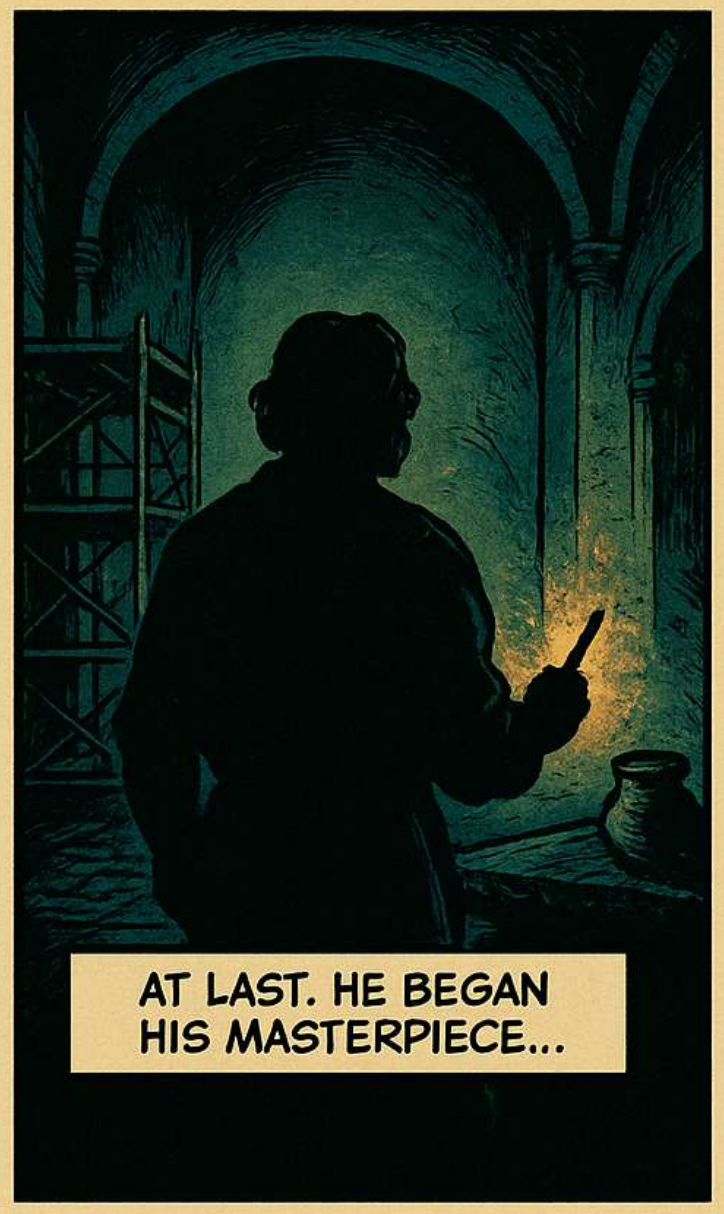

THE PEOPLE DECLARED HIS SUCCESS.

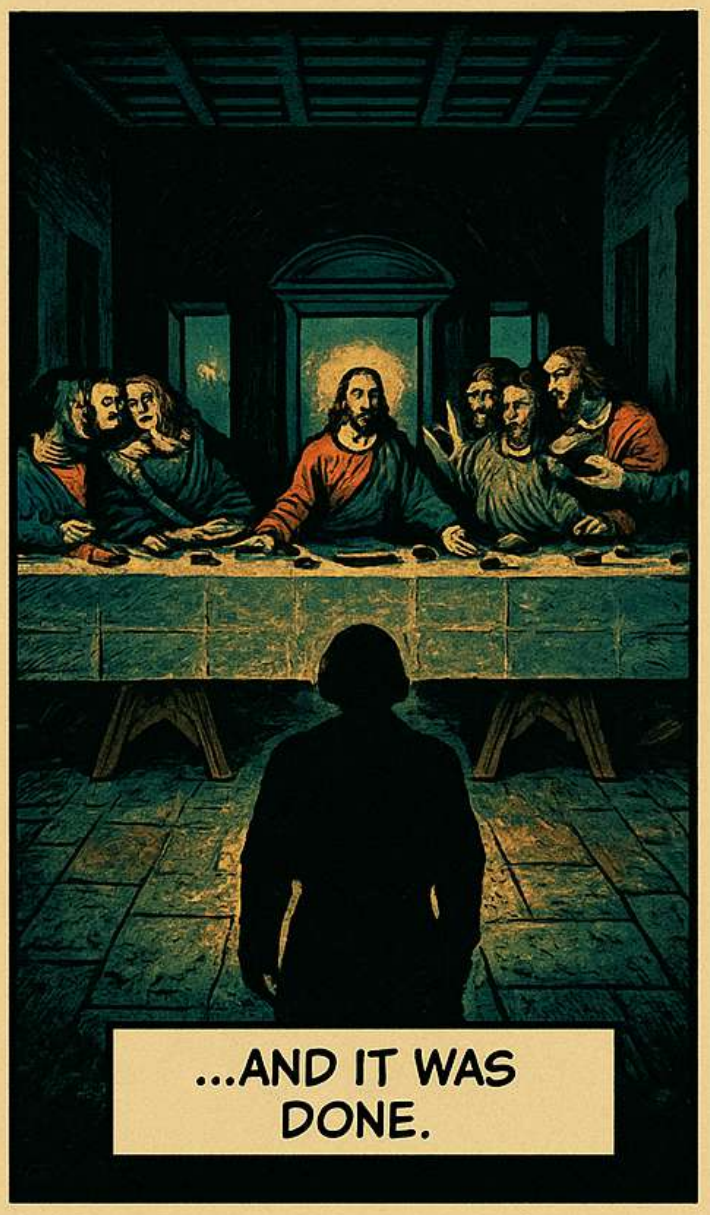

AND THE KINGS NOTICED HIS WONDERS.
LET HIM PAINT... LET HIM SCULPT... FOR US.

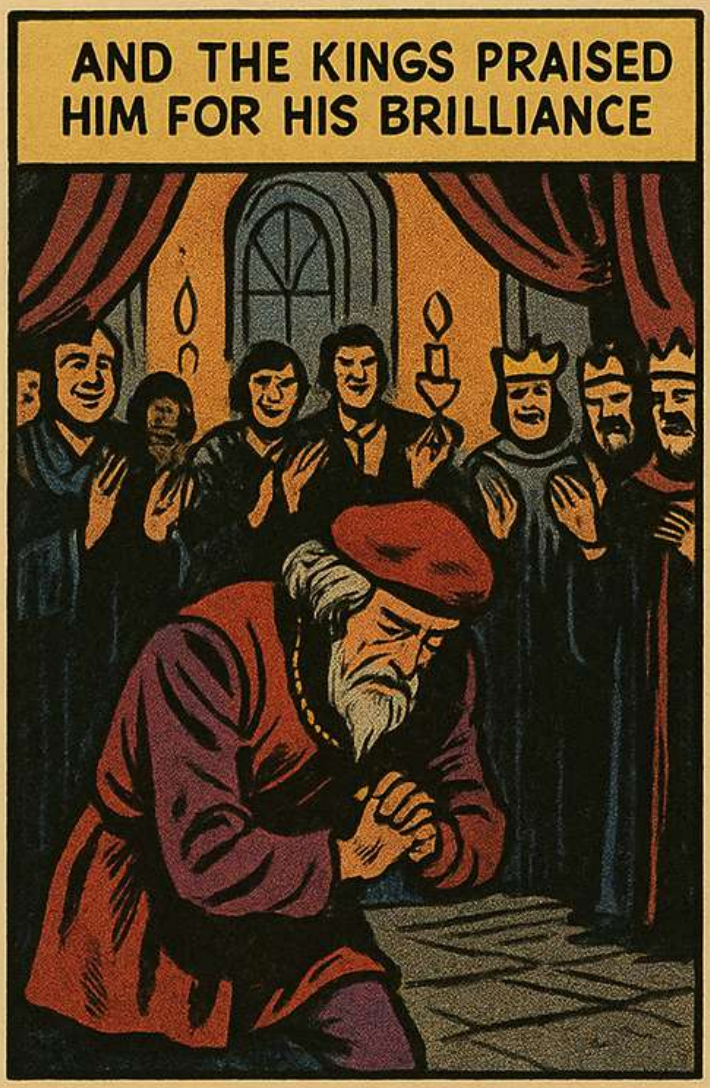
AND IT WAS SO - THE MAGICIAN WAS LET INSIDE THE KING'S CAS-
HE STRUCK A COMMISSION WITH THE DUKE.
HE WAS TAUGHT HOW TO PAINT...
... AND SCULPT...
AND HE WAS GIVEN A PATRONAGE.

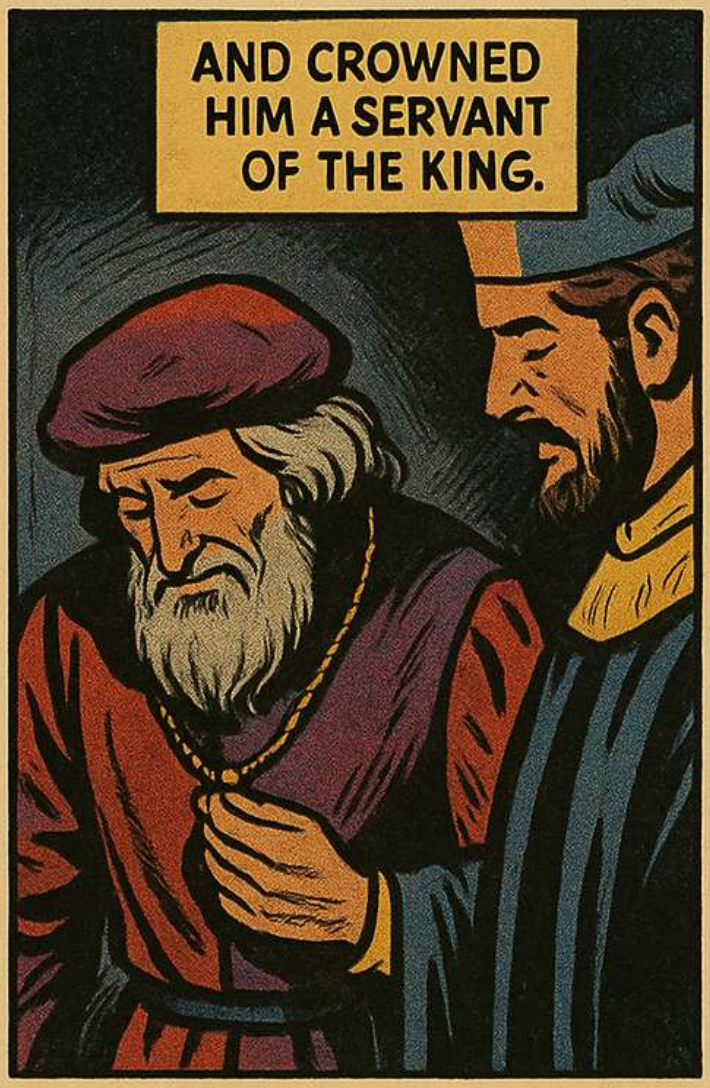

AND HE WORKED HARD...
AND HARDER STILL.

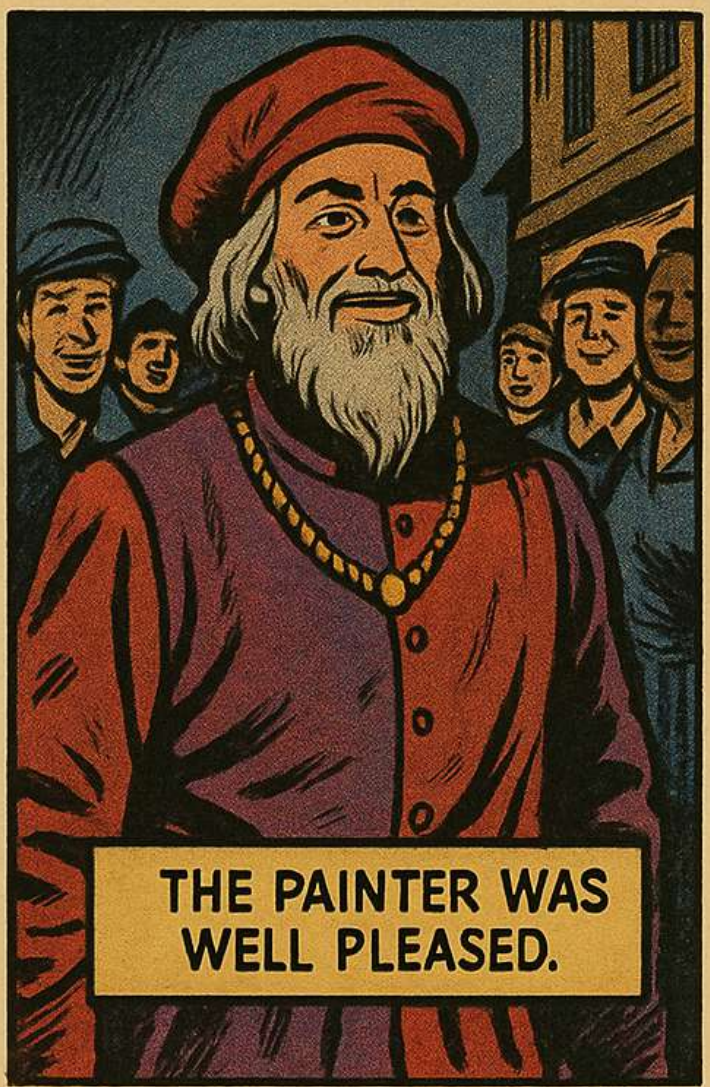

HE STUDIED THE ART OF PAINTING... THE STROKES THAT CAUGHT THE EYE THE EYES OF MEN.

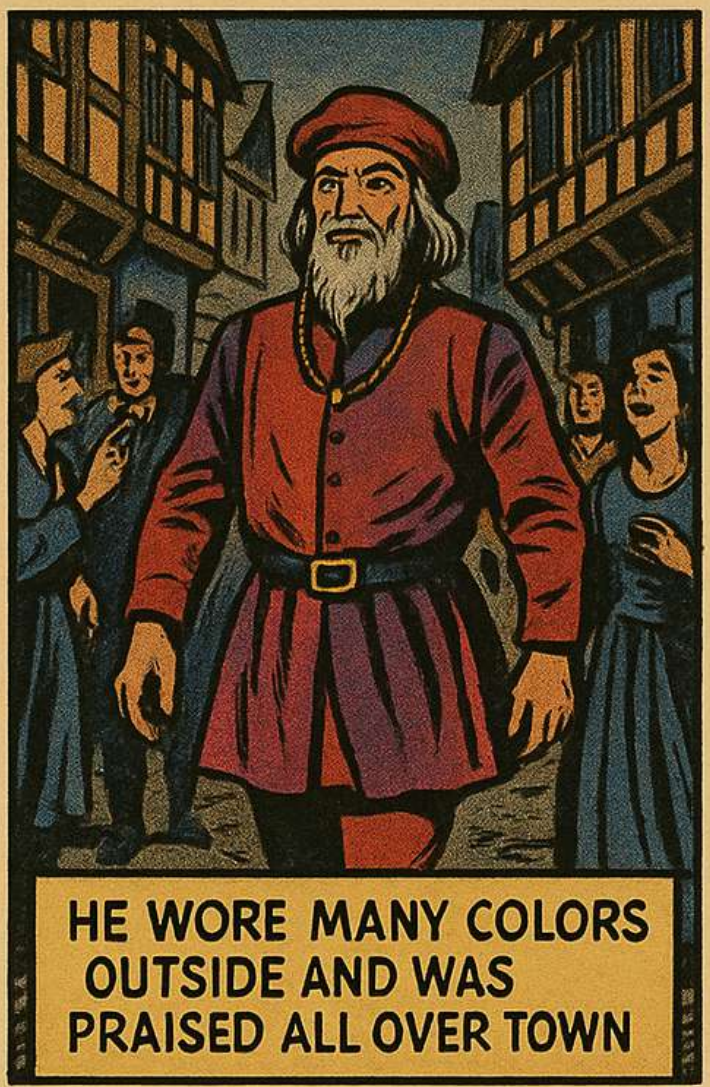

AT LAST. HE BEGAN HIS MASTERPIECE...


...AND IT WAS DONE.

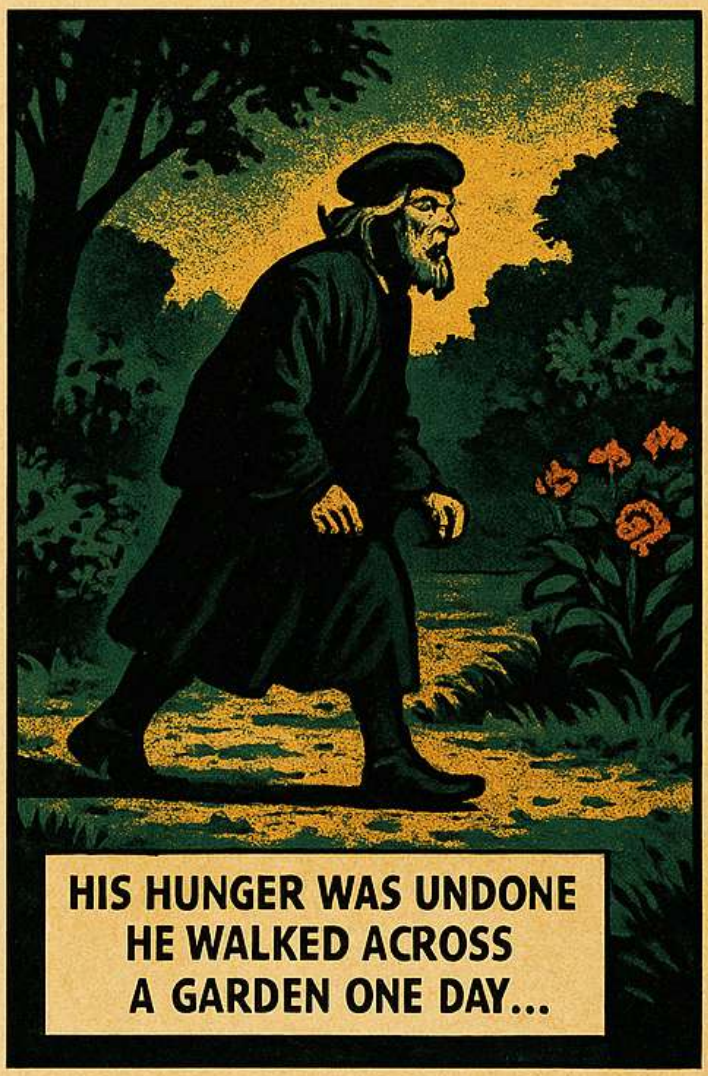

AND THE KINGS PRAISED HIM FOR HIS BRILLIANCE

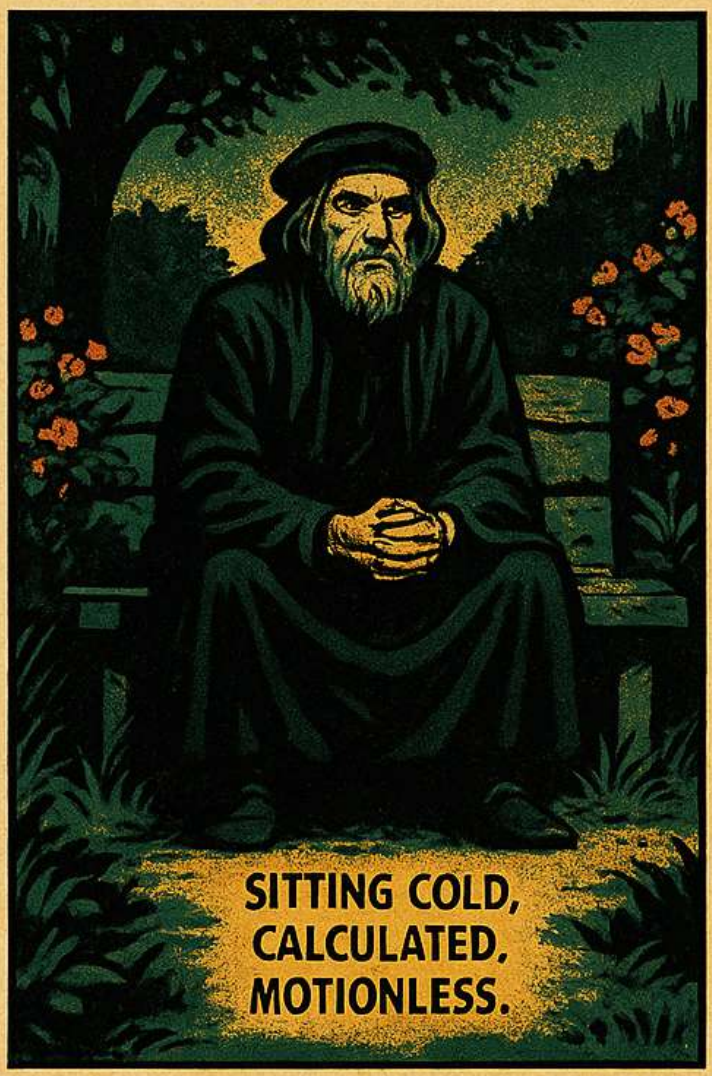

AND CROWNED HIM A SERVANT OF THE KING.

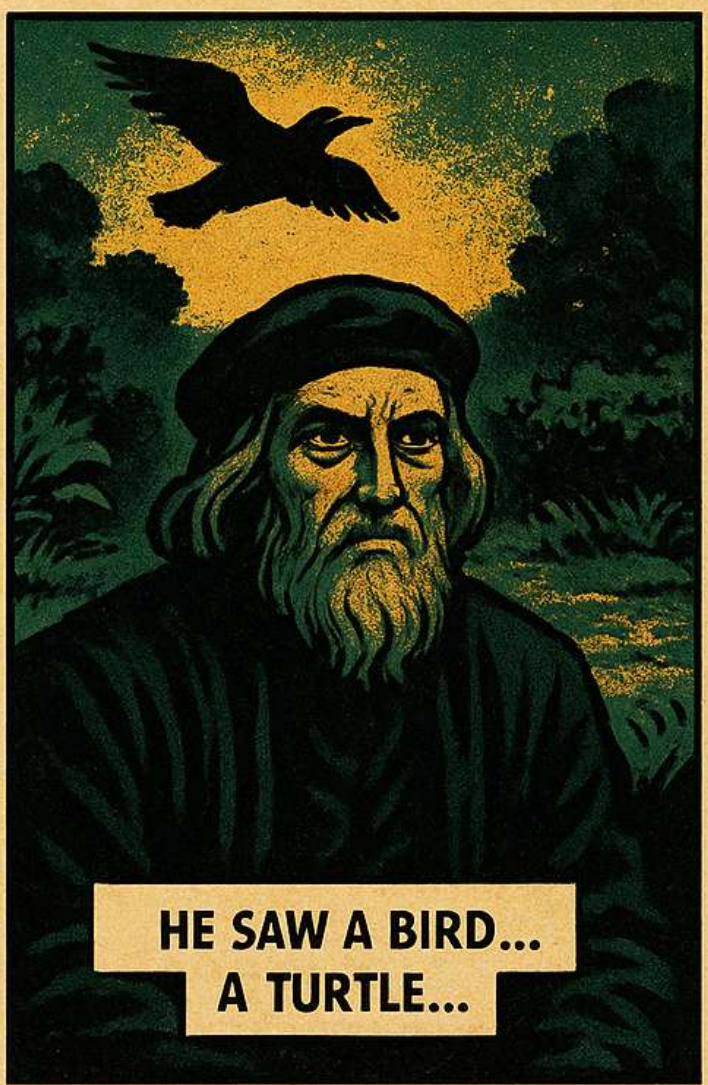

THE PAINTER WAS WELL PLEASED.

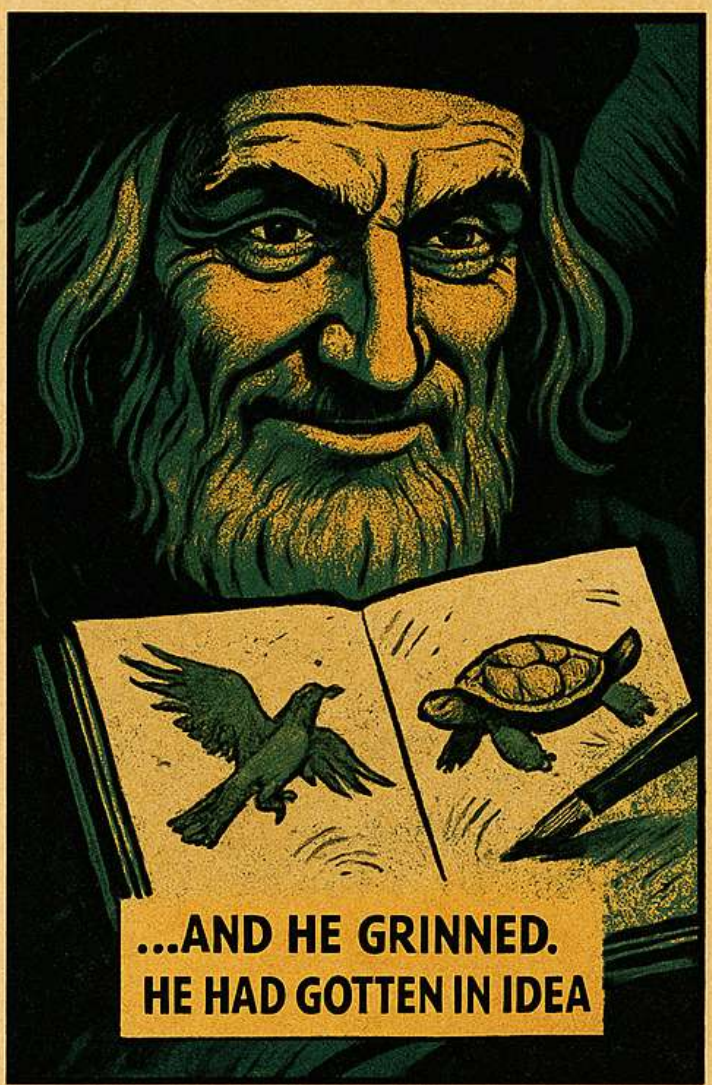

HE WORE MANY COLORS OUTSIDE AND WAS PRAISED ALL OVER TOWN

HE OFFERED HIMSELF AS A SERVANT OF WAR...
AND THE KING WELCOMED HIM AS AN ENGINEER.
HE SAW WAR WITH HE OWN EYES...

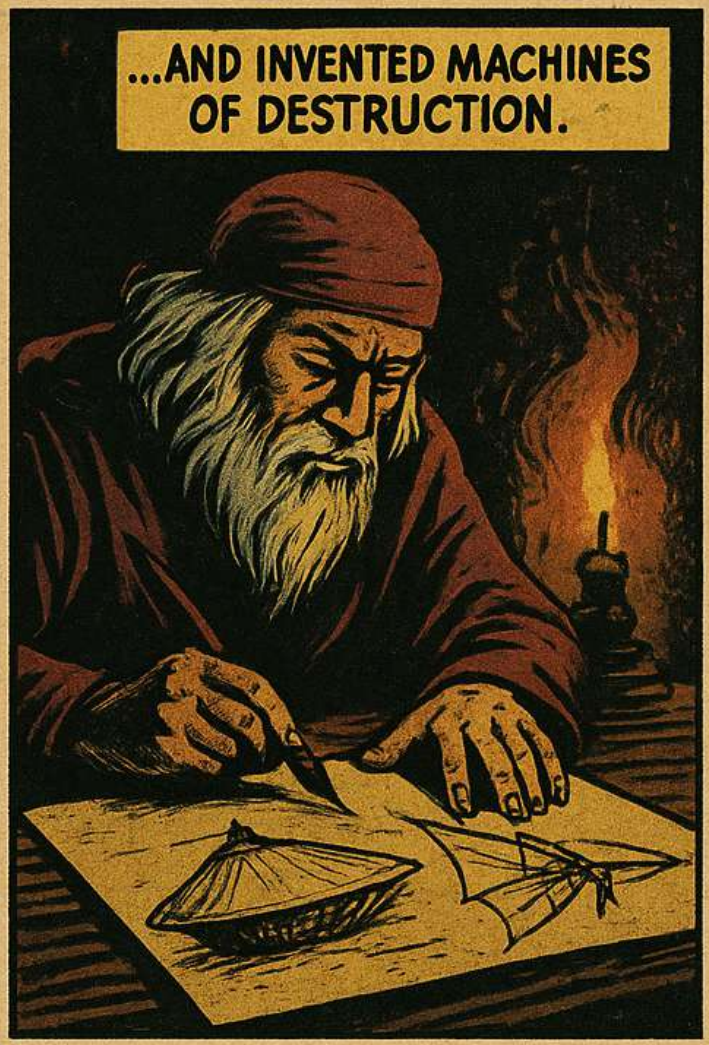

HIS HUNGER WAS UNDONE
HE WALKED ACROSS
A GARDEN ONE DAY...

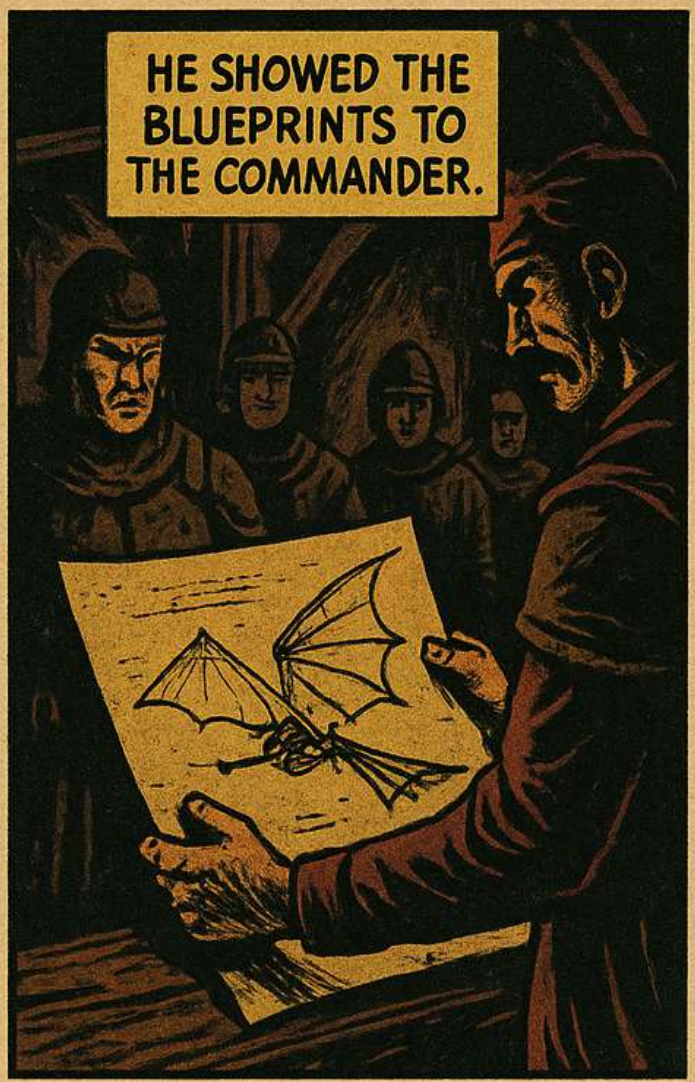

SITTING COLD,
CALCULATED,
MOTIONLESS.

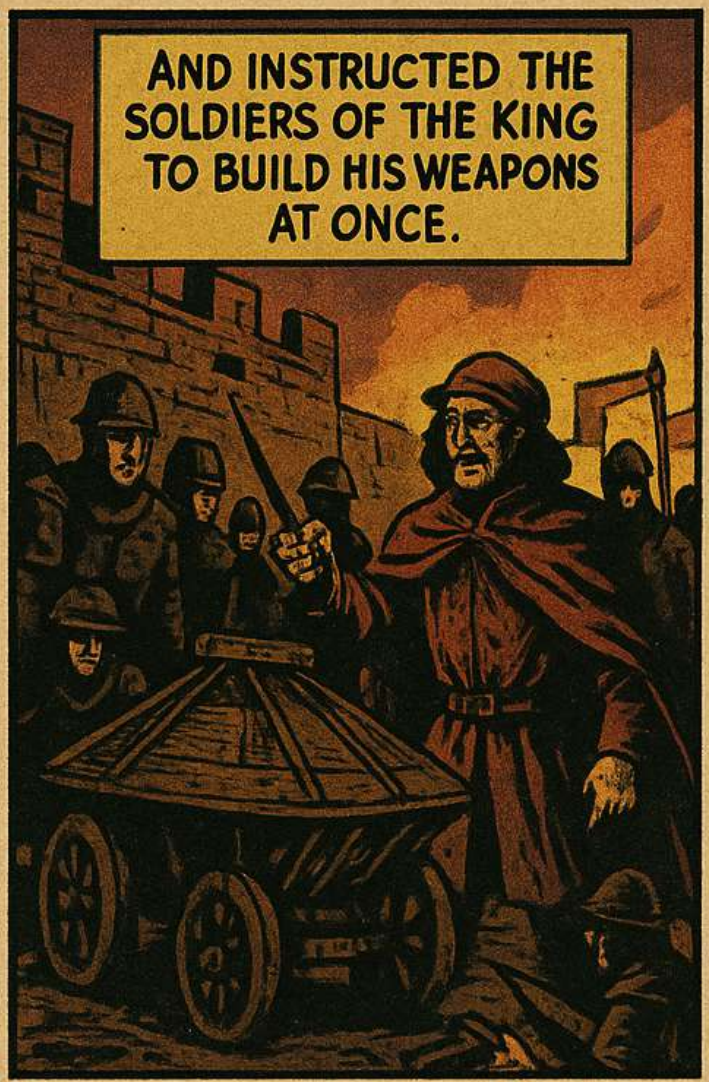

HE SAW A BIRD...
A TURTLE...

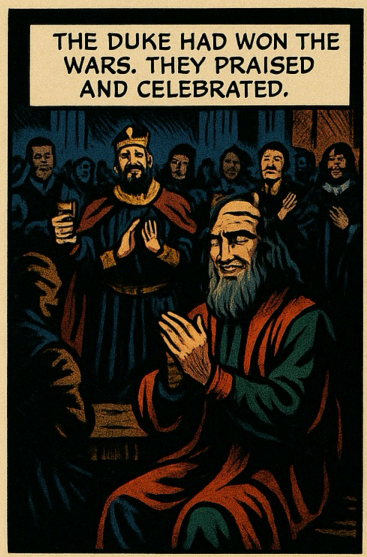

...AND HE GRINNED.
HE HAD GOTTEN IN IDEA

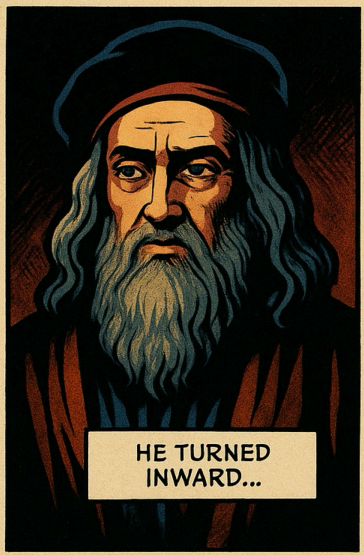
AND THEN HE WALKED BACK INTO HIS LAIR...

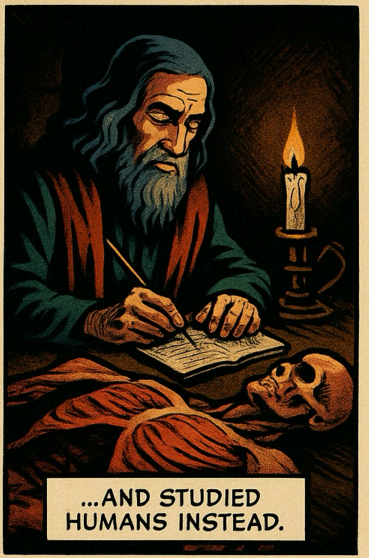

...AND INVENTED MACHINES OF DESTRUCTION.

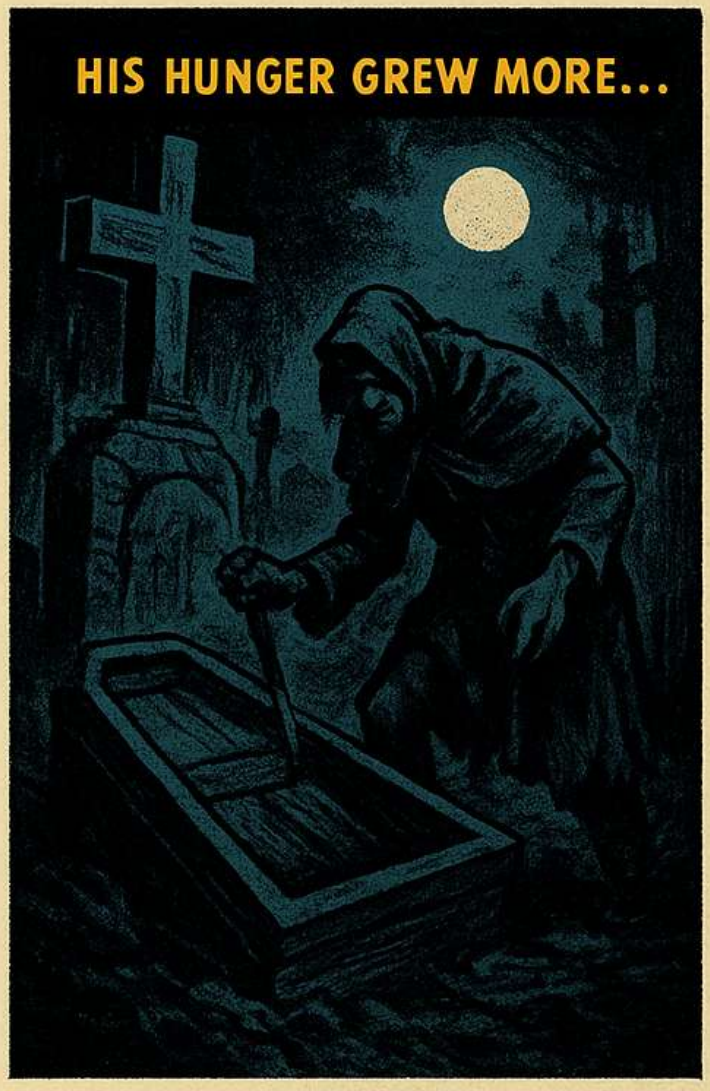

HE SHOWED THE BLUEPRINTS TO THE COMMANDER.

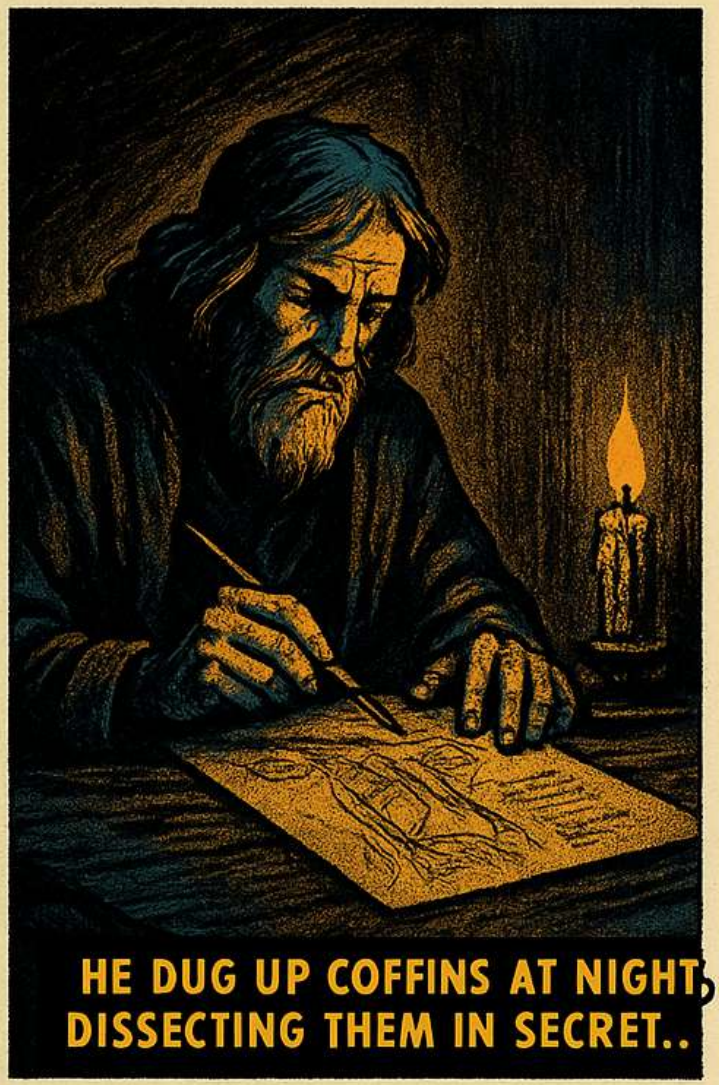

AND INSTRUCTED THE SOLDIERS OF THE KING TO BUILD HIS WEAPONS AT ONCE.

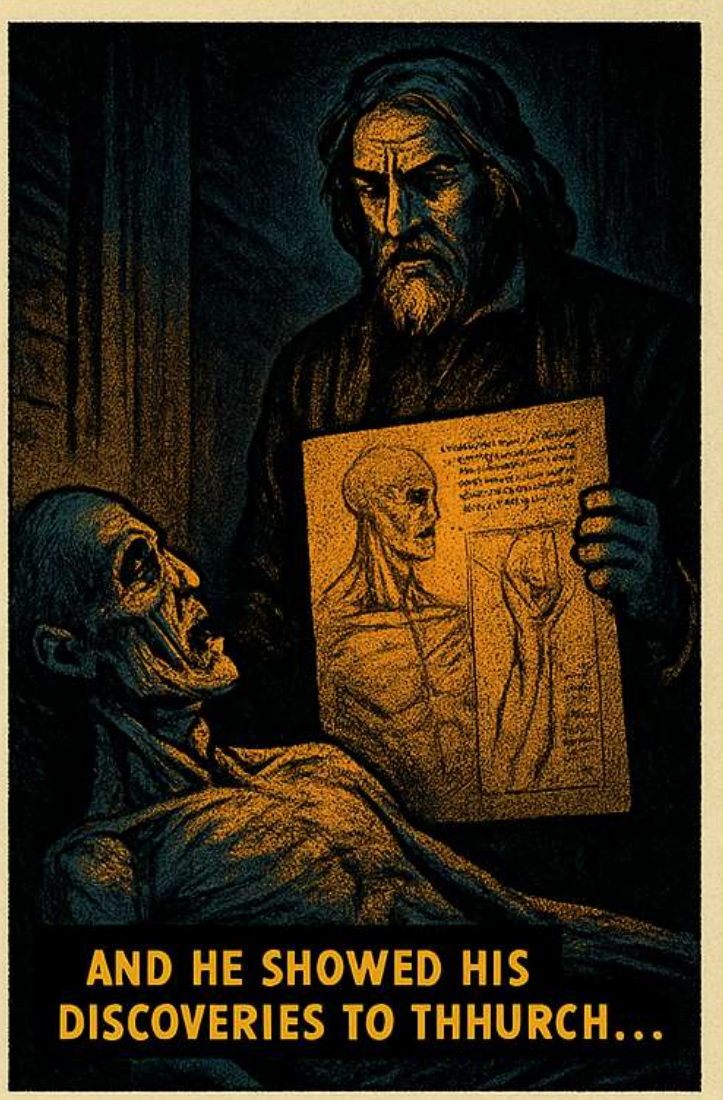

THE DUKE HAD WON THE WARS. THEY PRAISED AND CELEBRATED.

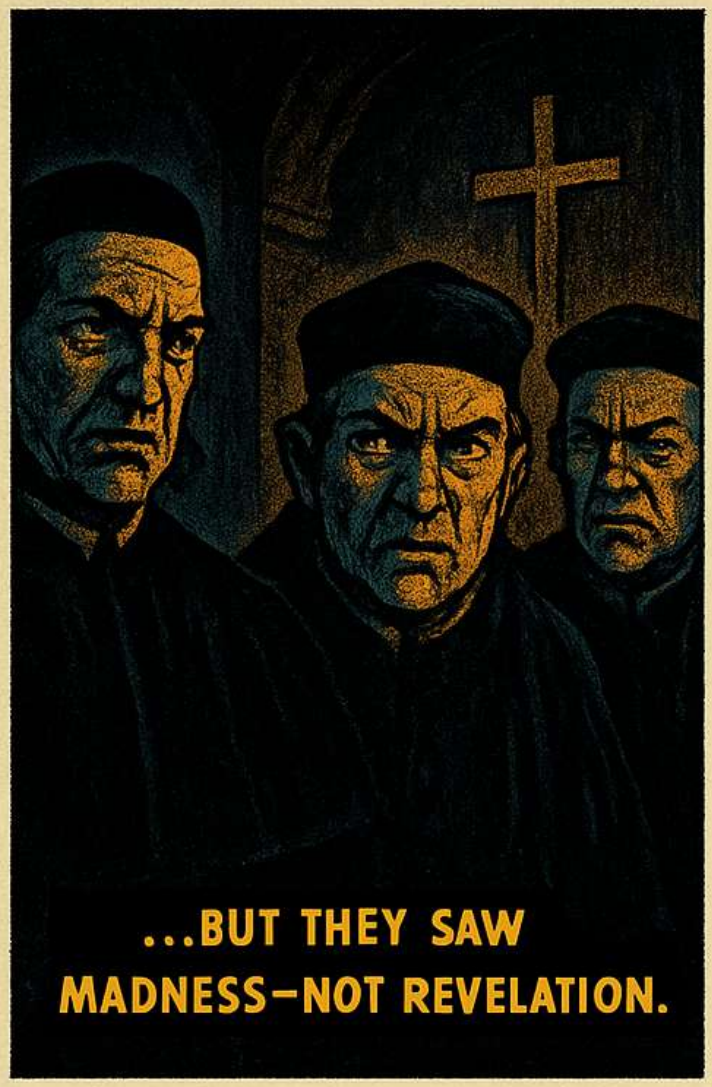

HE TURNED INWARD...

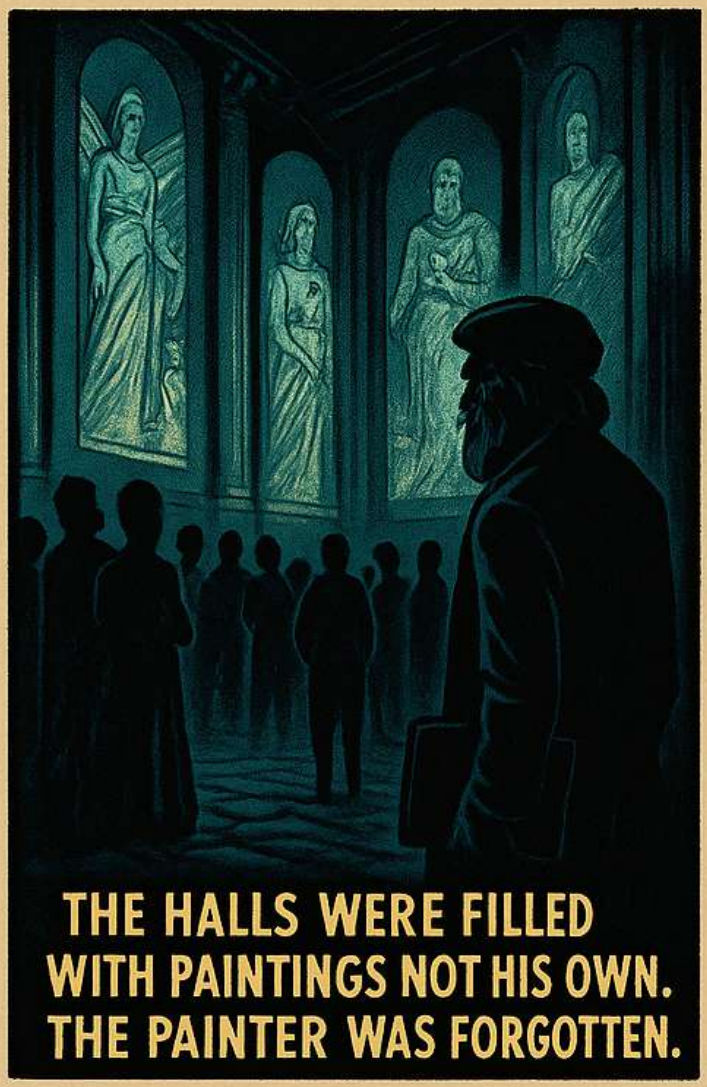

...AND STUDIED HUMANS INSTEAD.

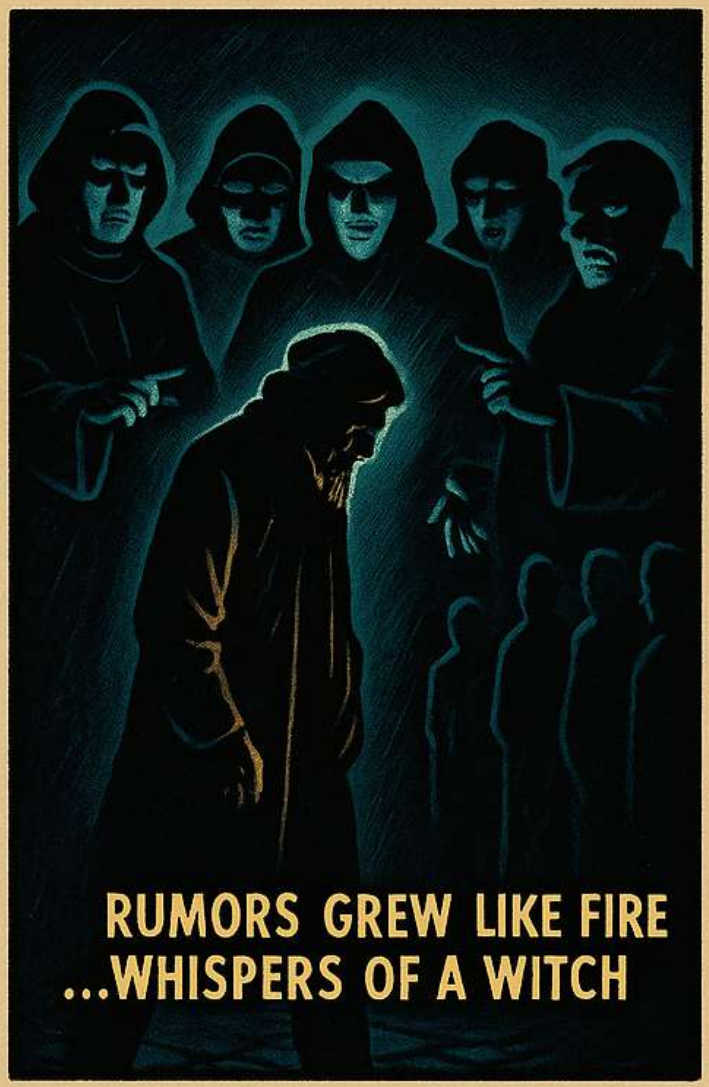

HIS HUNGER GREW MORE...

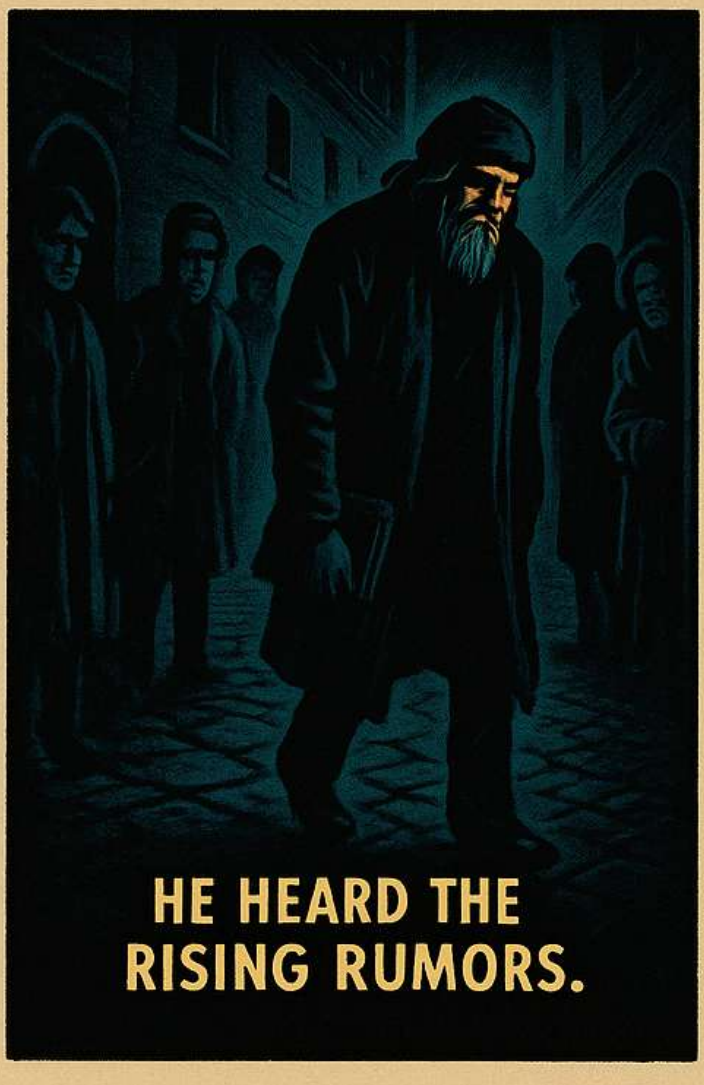

HE DUG UP COFFINS AT NIGHT,
DISSECTING THEM IN SECRET..

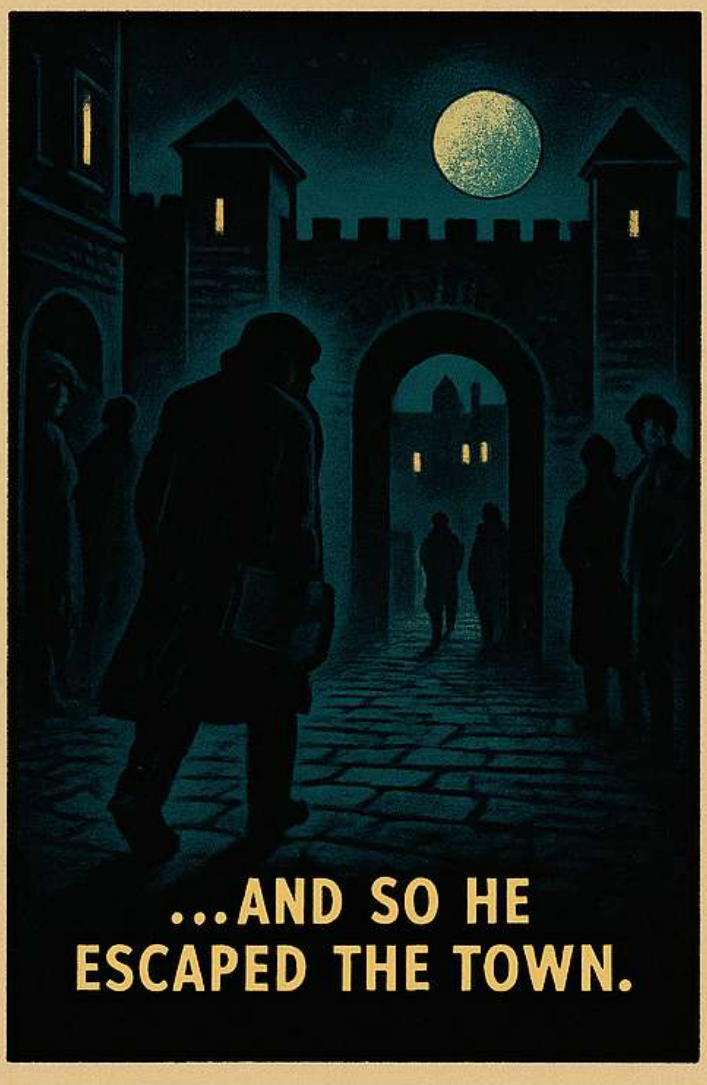

AND HE SHOWED HIS
DISCOVERIES TO THHURCH...


...BUT THEY SAW
MADNESS—NOT REVELATION.


THE HALLS WERE FILLED
WITH PAINTINGS NOT HIS OWN.
THE PAINTER WAS FORGOTTEN.


RUMORS GREW LIKE FIRE
...WHISPERS OF A WITCH


HE HEARD THE
RISING RUMORS.


...AND SO HE
ESCAPED THE TOWN.

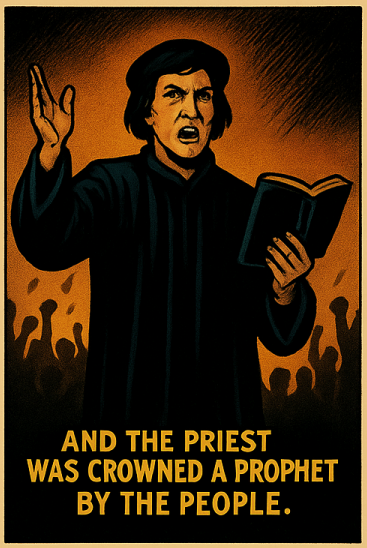
THE PRIEST WAS SADDENED...
FOR THE PAINTER
WAS HIS FRIEND

BUT SORROW GREW
INTO ANGER
BIBLIA
HIS FURY TURNED

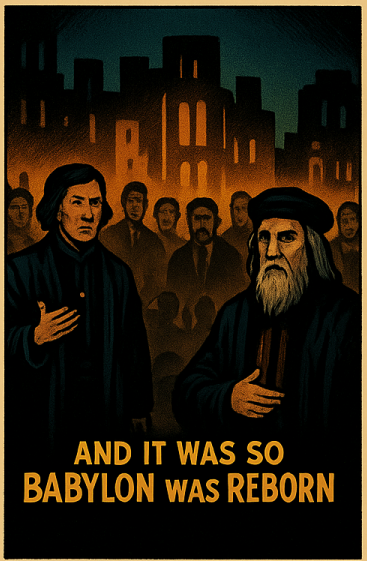
CHURCH
BIBLE
HIS FURY THRNED
AGAINST THE CHURCH

...AND HE REVOLTED

REFORM
THE GREAT CHURCH
HAD FALLEN
INTO PIECES.

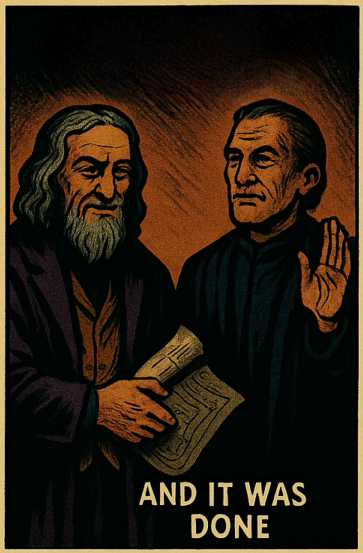

AND THE PRIEST
WAS CROWNED A PROPHET
BY THE PEOPLE.

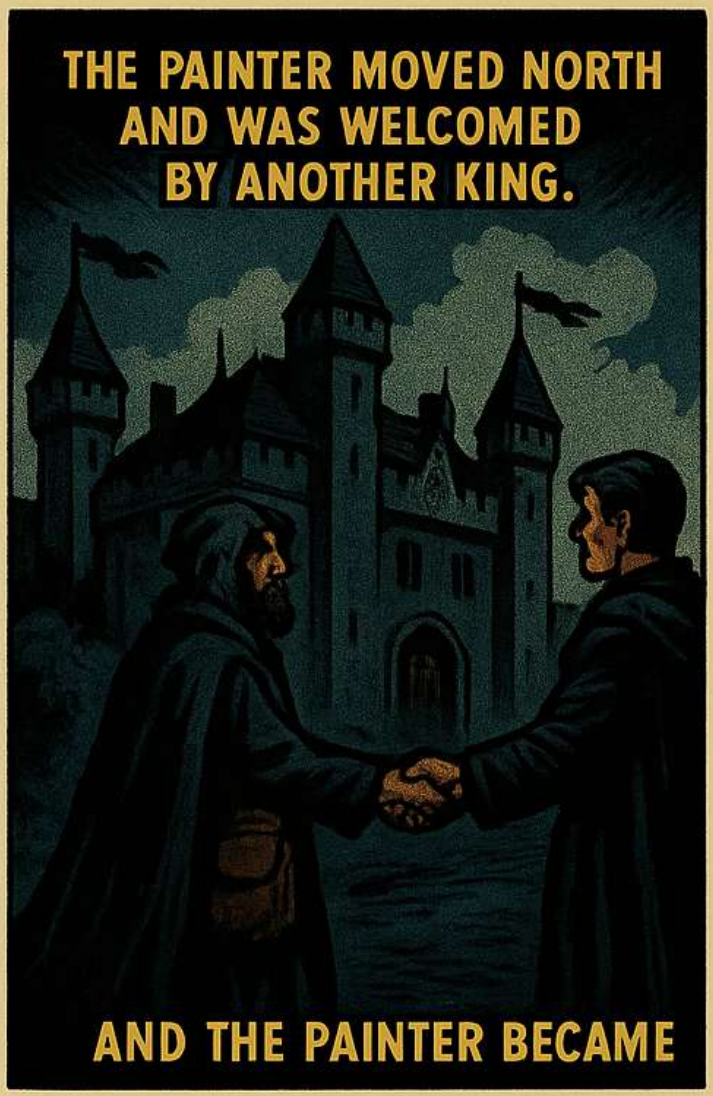
BUT THEIR REFORM
WAS BLOOD
AND DIVISION...

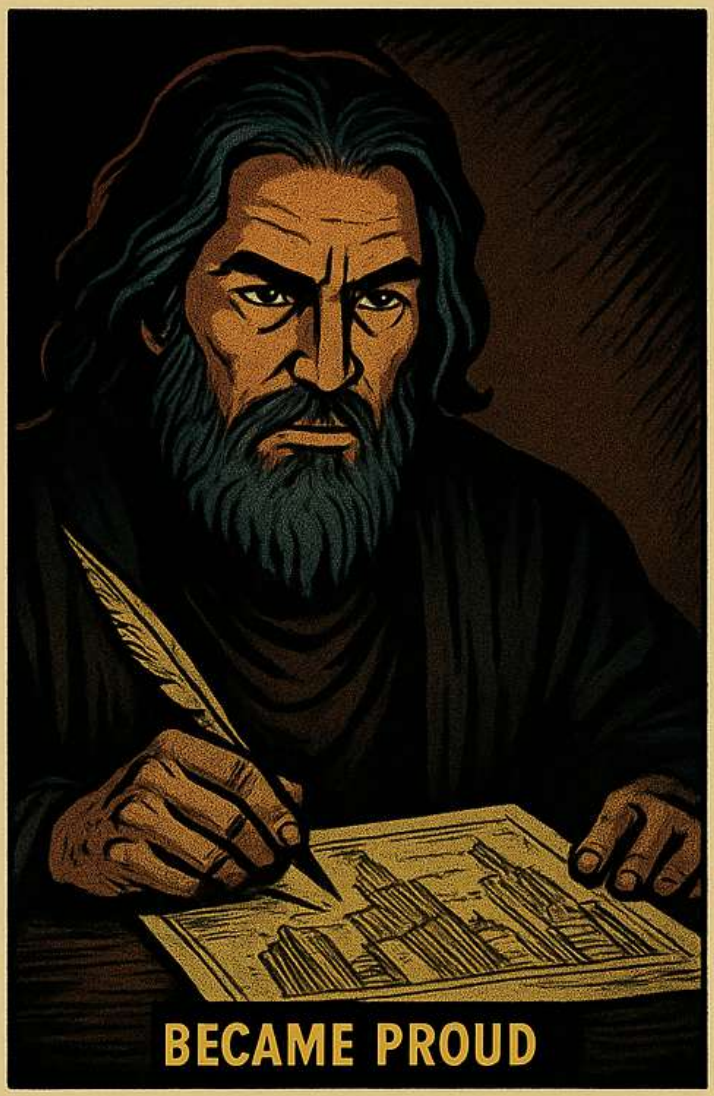

AND IT WAS SO
BABYLON WAS REBORN

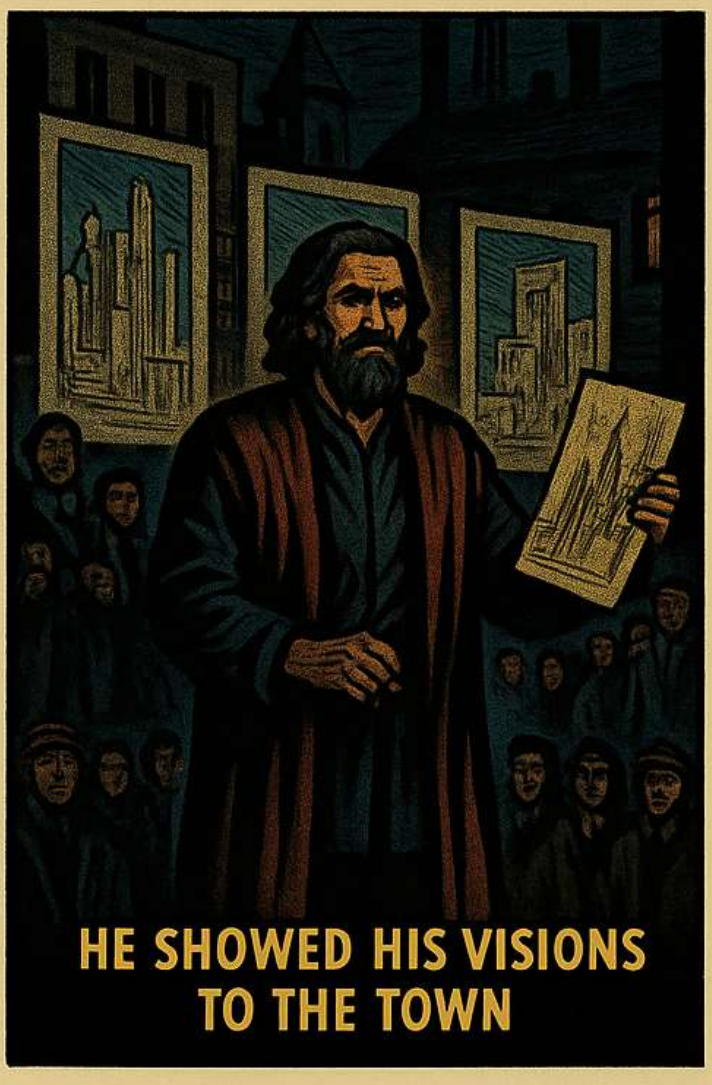
AFTER THE REVOLT. THE PRIEST SOUGHT OUT THE PAINTER...

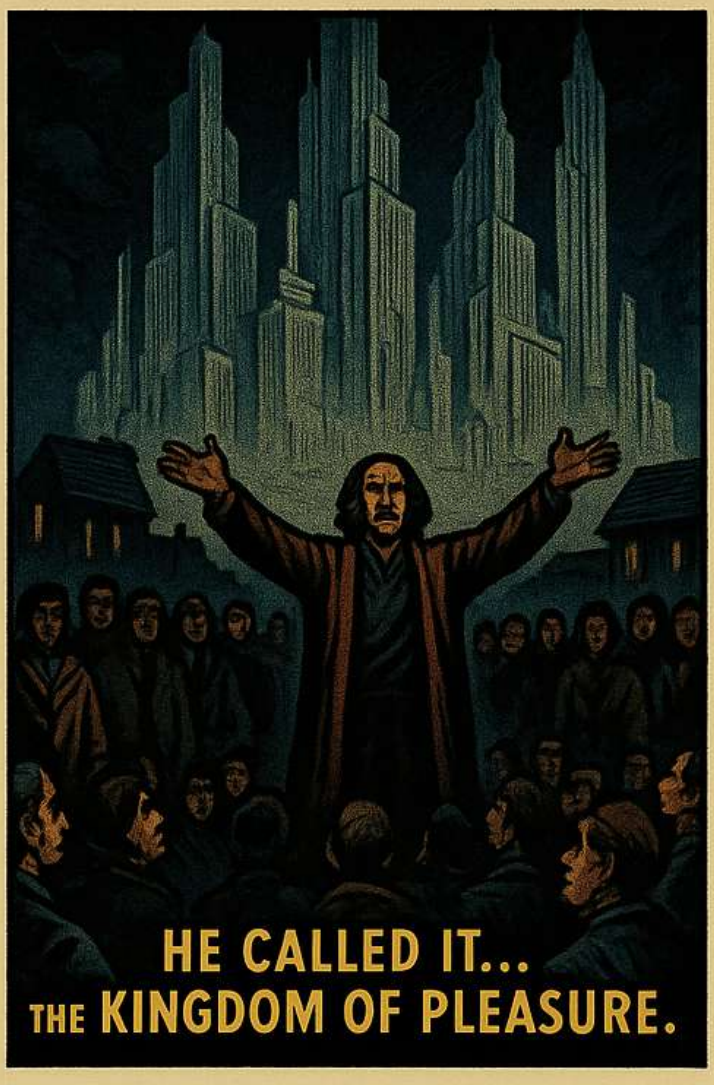
THE PROPHET GAVE THE PAINTER HIS FLOCK

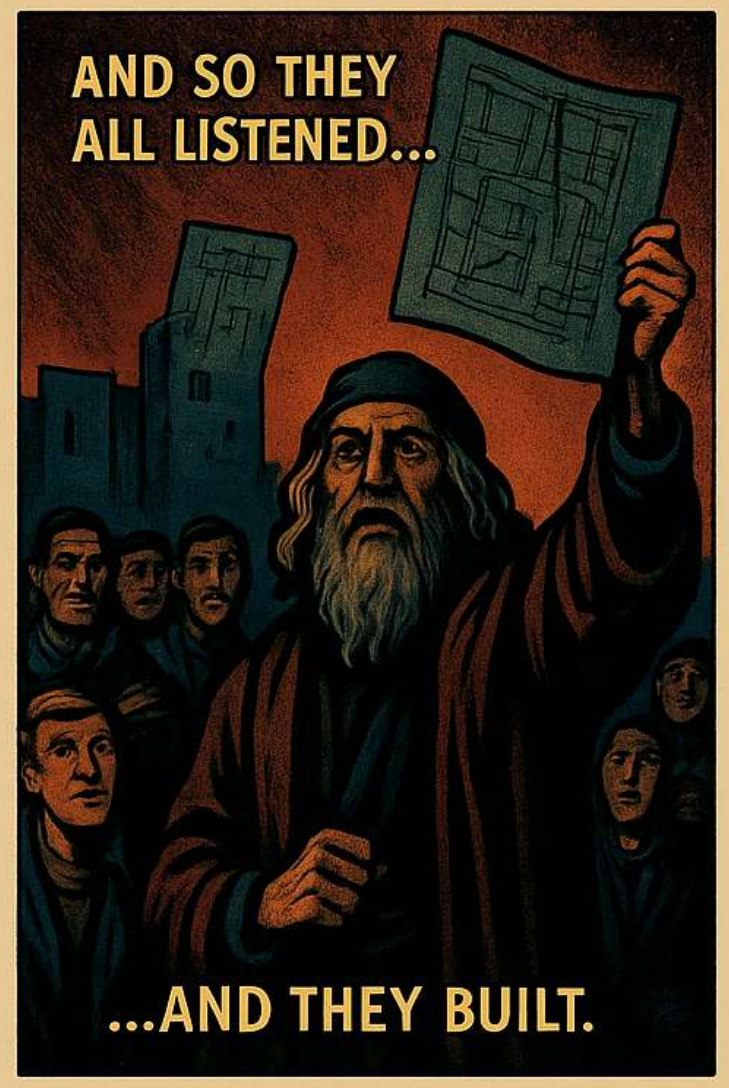

AND IT WAS DONE


THE PAINTER MOVED NORTH
AND WAS WELCOMED
BY ANOTHER KING.
AND THE PAINTER BECAME


BECAME PROUD

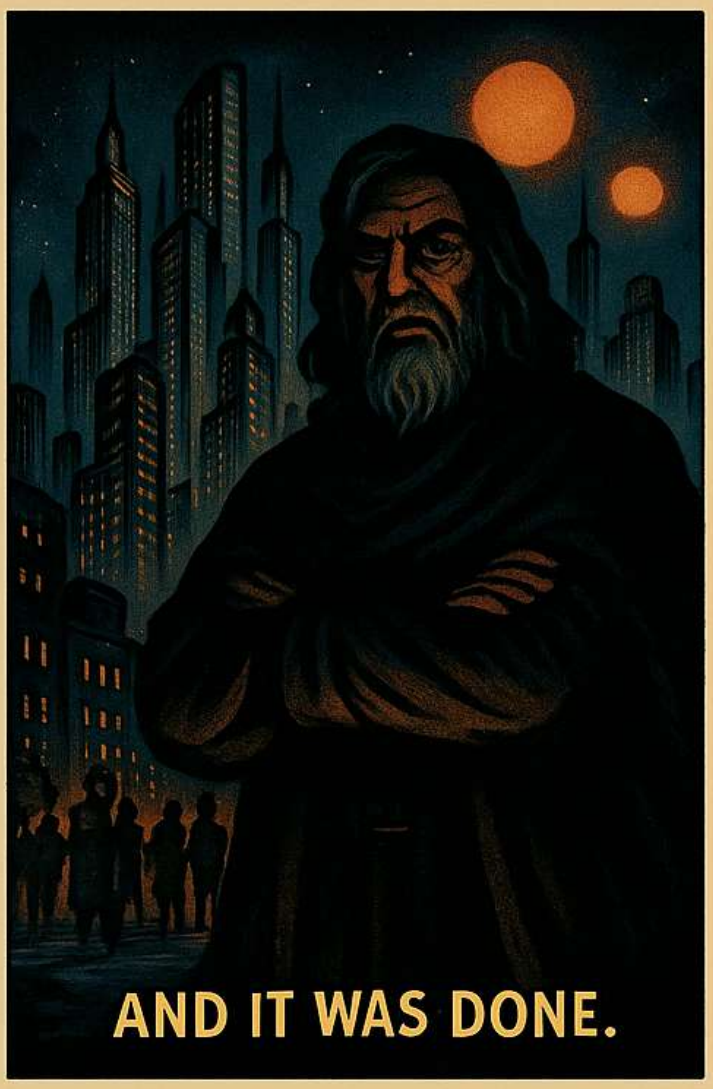

HE SHOWED HIS VISIONS
TO THE TOWN


HE CALLED IT...
THE KINGDOM OF PLEASURE.

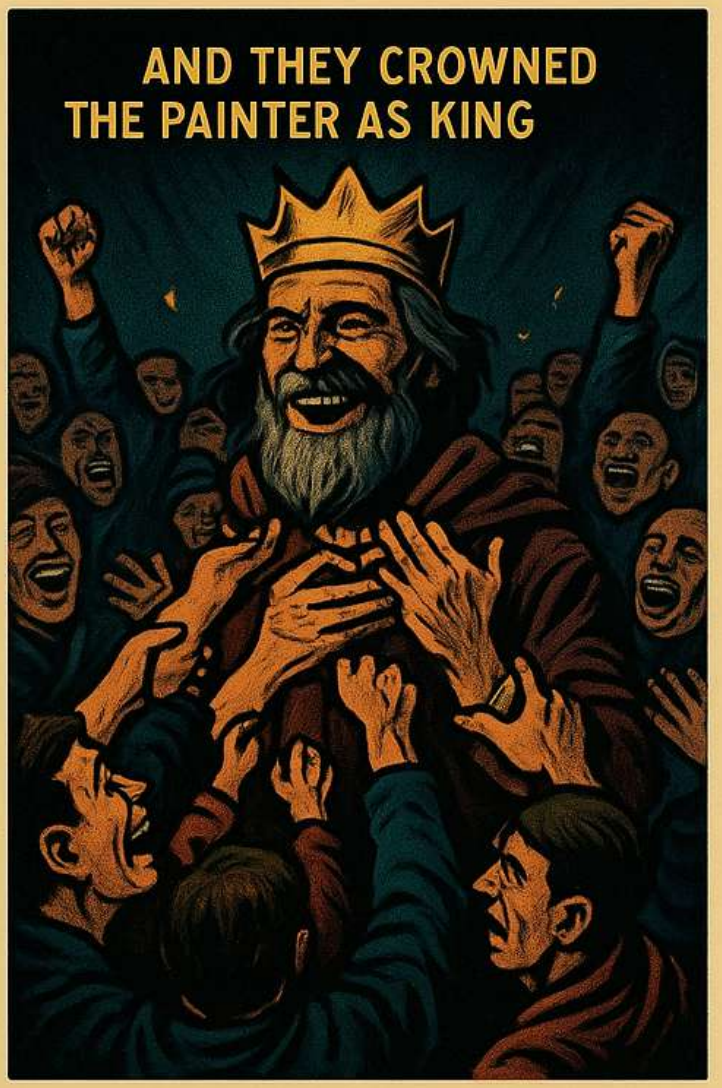

AND SO THEY
ALL LISTENED...
...AND THEY BUILT.

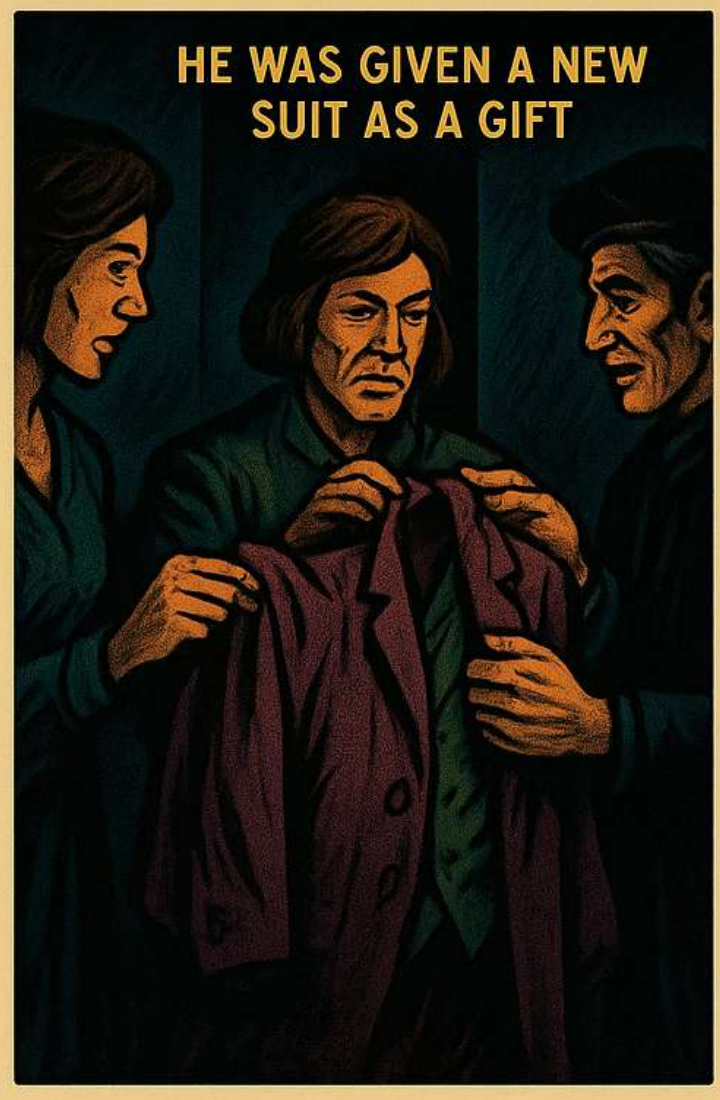
AND THEY BUILT

...AND BUILT.

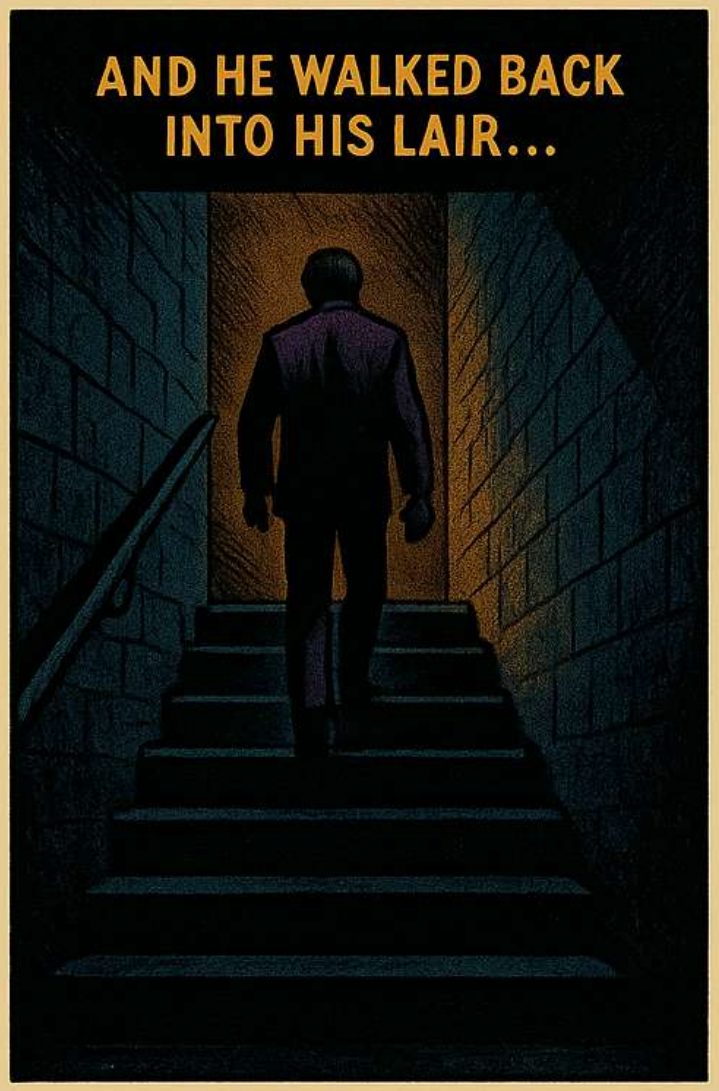

AND IT WAS DONE.

THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED
AND CELEBRATED.

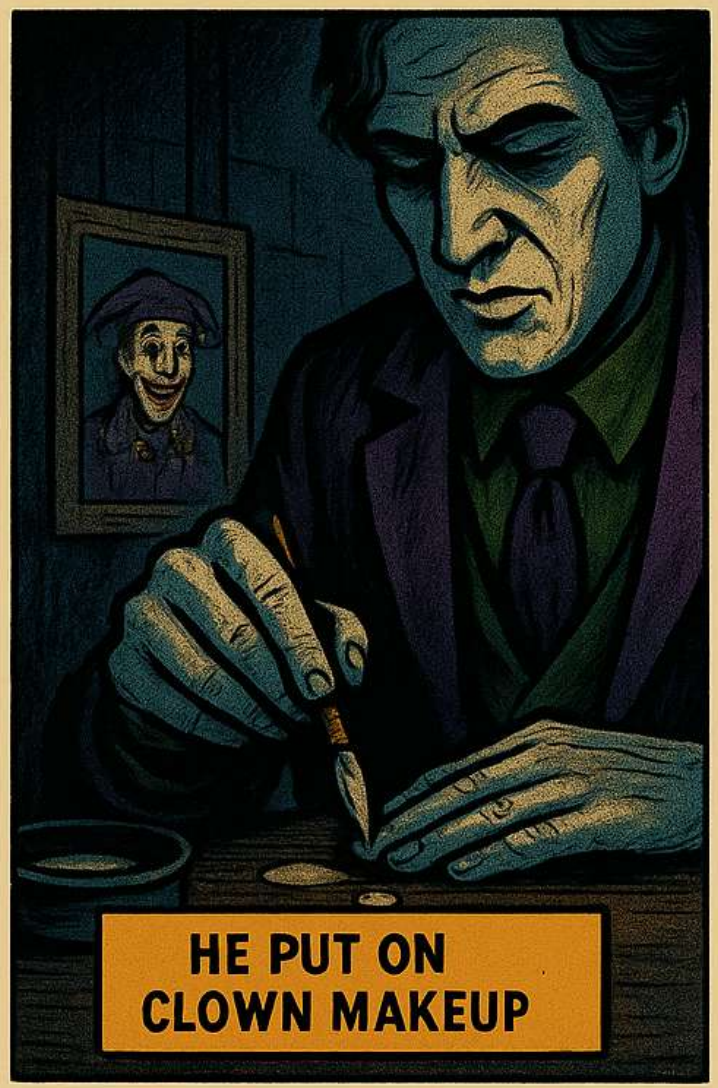

AND THEY CROWNED
THE PAINTER AS KING


HE WAS GIVEN A NEW
SUIT AS A GIFT

AND THE PAINTER WAS
WELL PLEASED.


AND HE WALKED BACK INTO HIS LAIR...

...AND REMEMBER HIS ERLY JESTER


HE PUT ON CLOWN MAKEUP

...AND BECAME... THE JOKER